

January 14, 2014

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Highlighted Events

Tuesday, January 14  
SCHOOLS: Sleep Apnea

Thursday, January 16  
Hemodynamic Monitoring: Not Just the Basics

Tuesday, January 21  
What’s the Skinny on the Medical Management of Obesity? for Nurse Practitioners

Wednesday, January 22  
SCHOOLS: Managing Challenging Behaviors in Children with Special Needs

Tuesday, February 18  
Management of the Patient with Atrial Fibrillation for Nurse Practitioners

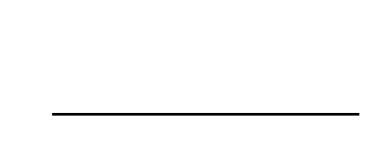
Thursday, February 20  
SCHOOLS: Understanding and Treating Codependency

Friday, February 21  
Pain Assessment and Management-- What you Must Know

For more information about events and a full listing of upcoming programs, please visit our website.

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New Partnership Helps to Address Childhood Obesity Issues in Underserved Populations



Upstate AHEC is partnering with Meeting Street Academy (MSA) in Spartanburg in January to sponsor an Interprofessional Service Learning Project (IPSL) with the Junior Doctors of Health curriculum. Meeting Street Academy offers an education to students from 3K-5K that focuses on empowering the whole child. MSA’s programming includes a rigorous academic curriculum integrated with the arts and music to help students develop critical thinking skills to compete in a global economy.

MSA is an ideal partner for the Junior Doctors of Health program. The academy works with a master gardener with the Hub City Co-Op to plant and harvest a garden, to teach children about where food comes from, and the importance of good nutrition. The children eat what they grow. The nurse and director of the school plan all meals to insure they are nutritionally sound. Students are served breakfast, two snacks and lunch during their school day; no outside food is allowed in the building. MSA has a “no sweets” policy and celebrates with healthy snacks or in other ways. Students are introduced to age appropriate health classes focusing on nutrition, hygiene and safety. All students receive physical education classes twice each week. In addition, 5K students are required to pass a swim test to graduate to the first grade, and, as a pre-requisite, must take swimming lessons at the local YMCA twice a week.

Students at MSA participate in the Walk to School Day campaign. Meeting Street, in conjunction with Partners for Active Living, has developed a walking trail for use by students, families and staff.

Upstate AHEC’s Health Professions Students (HPS) program staff is excited about this new partnership with MSA to continue to promote the mission to prevent childhood obesity in underserved populations. For additional information, contact Tina Fulton at 864-349-1160.

“ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care,” Course Being Offered by all AHECs throughout the state of South Carolina

Diana Caron, Continuing Education Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC and Bennie Petit, Education Consultant, Upstate AHEC

**Save the Date**  
**ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care**

**Upstate AHEC**  
**February 11, 2014**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
To register, visit [upstateahec.org](#)

**Lowcountry AHEC**  
**February 17, 2014**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
To register, visit [lowcountryahec.org](#)

**Mid-Carolina AHEC**  
**February 20, 2014**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
To register, visit [midcarolinaahec.org](#)

**Pee Dee AHEC**  
**April 15, 2014**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
To register, visit [peedeeahec.org](#)

FDA statistics indicate that more than 33 million Americans misused extended-release and long-acting (ER/LA) opioids during 2007 - up from 29 million in 2002. All four regional AHECs in the state of South Carolina have taken advantage of an excellent opportunity to positively affect outcomes for patients on extended-release (ER) and long-acting (LA) opioid medications through an unrestricted educational grant from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

This educational activity is entitled “ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care.” The purpose of the conference will be to provide participants with information on how to improve pain management and prevent adverse outcomes in patients using ER/LA Opioid Analgesics. ASAM’s grant provides three *American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Category 1 Credit(s)*™ for those who prescribe or dispense and three best practice credit hours for counselors, therapists and nonsocial workers.

Founded in June 2010, the Collaborative on REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) Education (CO\*RE), a multidisciplinary collaboration of ten partners and three cooperating organizations, has designed a core curriculum based on needs assessment, practice gaps, clinical competencies, learner self-assessment, with shared tools, resources, and outcomes to meet the requirements of the FDA REMS Blueprint. Together, this will improve pain management and prevent adverse outcomes. This activity is intended to be fully compliant with the ER/LA Opioid Analgesics REMS education requirements issued by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). The content is delivered over 2.5 to 3 hours and the course can easily be incorporated into a lunch or dinner meeting.

All four regional Centers are offering this course in the evening hours to better accommodate the intended audience. Contact your local AHEC for more information on this excellent opportunity to positively affect outcomes for this population.

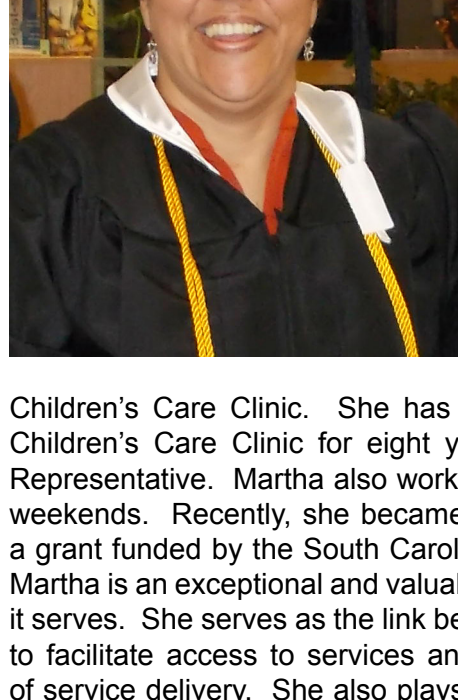
February 11, 2014 – Greenville: Information at [www.upstateahec.org](#)  
February 17, 2014 – Charleston: Information at [www.lcahec.com](#)  
February 20, 2014 – Columbia: Information at [www.midcarolinaahec.org](#)  
April 15, 2014 – Florence: Information at [www.peedeeahec.net](#)

This educational activity is supported by an independent educational grant from the ER/LA Opioid Analgesic REMS Program Companies (RPC). Please see [www.er-la-opioidREMS.com](#) for a listing of the member companies.

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Martha Gomez: Community Health Worker, Interpreter, and Social Worker

By Kimbley Stephens, MSED and Emily Warren, LMSW



Community Health Workers (CHWs) are recognized in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as important members of the healthcare workforce. Evidence shows that they can help improve healthcare access and outcomes, strengthen healthcare teams, and enhance quality of life for people in poor, underserved, and diverse communities. Using their unique position, skills, and an expanded knowledge base, CHWs can help reduce system costs for healthcare by linking patients to community resources and helping patients avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and other forms of more expensive care as they improve outcomes for community members.

That description definitely defines the role of CHW Martha Gomez. Martha works at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

Children’s Care Clinic. She has been a part of the healthcare team at MUSC Children’s Care Clinic for eight years serving as the Bilingual Patient Services Representative. Martha also works as an interpreter at the MUSC Hospital on the weekends. Recently, she became the clinic’s Community Health Worker through a grant funded by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Martha is an exceptional and valuable asset to the pediatric clinic and to the patients it serves. She serves as the link between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. She also plays a major role building individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities, such as outreach, education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy.

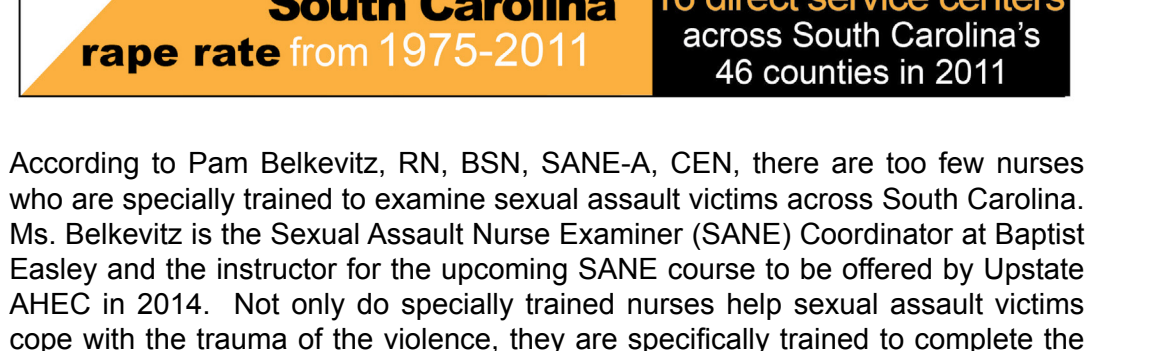
While working at the clinic and as an interpreter, Martha also attended Limestone College in Charleston, SC pursuing her Bachelor’s degree in Social Work. As she was beginning her new role as the CHW, Martha started her final course requirement, a 400 hour field practicum. Lowcountry AHEC’s Health Professions Student Coordinator Emily Warren served as Martha’s field practicum supervisor. They engaged in weekly meetings to discuss the methods of classroom learning that Martha applied to her social work experiences at the clinic. In November, Martha completed her field practicum course. On December 13, 2013, Martha graduated from Limestone College with a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work. Congratulations Martha!

For additional information, please contact Kimbley Stephens at [stephensk@lcahec.com](#) or Emily Warren at [warrene@lcahec.com](#).

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Upstate AHEC to offer Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) Forensic Nurse Training Seminar

By Bennie Pettit, Education Consultant, Upstate AHEC



According to Pam Belkevitz, RN, BSN, SANE-A, CEN, there are too few nurses who are specially trained to examine sexual assault victims across South Carolina. Ms. Belkevitz is the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Coordinator at Baptist Easley and the instructor for the upcoming SANE course to be offered by Upstate AHEC in 2014. Not only do specially trained nurses help sexual assault victims cope with the trauma of the violence, they are specifically trained to complete the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division’s (SLED) forensic rape kit that can help with prosecution of rape cases.

SANE nurses are trained in interviewing sexual assault victims and conducting forensic examinations, which includes taking pictures of injuries and collecting DNA evidence. The certification training for a SANE nurse involves 40 hours of classroom time, nine months to one year of clinical experience (with an additional clinical year to specialize in pediatric cases), plus time riding with police officers and six to eight hours of observing expert court testimony.

**Sexual Assault Statistics in South Carolina**

- In 2011, **16 rape crisis centers** in South Carolina served **5,660 victims** of sexual assault. (*SCCADVASA agency reports*)
- From 1975 to 2011, the **rape rate in South Carolina has increased 35.4%**. (*Crime in South Carolina 2011*)
- **76.7% of sexual assault victims knew the perpetrator** in South Carolina in 2011 (*Crime in South Carolina 2011*)
- South Carolina’s **rape rate has exceeded the national rate** since 1982. (*Crime in South Carolina 2011*)
- **47.6% of sexual assault victims were under the age of 18** in South Carolina in 2011. (*Crime in South Carolina 2011*)

For more information about the upcoming SANE Training Seminar call 864-349-1160 or visit the Upstate AHEC website at [www.upstateahec.org](#).

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Rural Physician Program Incentive Grants for Primary Care Providers in Rural Areas

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC) is pleased to announce that applications are currently being accepted from primary care physicians (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and Ob/Gyn) and advanced practice professionals (Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants) who practice or intend to practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) of South Carolina.

Awards to primary care physicians for a three-year commitment will vary with the minimum award being \$40,000 and the maximum award being \$70,000, depending upon the degree of severity of the HPSA.

Awards for advanced practice professionals for a three year commitment will vary with the minimum award being \$20,000 and the maximum award being \$30,000, depending upon the degree of severity of the HPSA. Applications for incentive grants for the upcoming year that begins on July 1, 2014, will be accepted until April 30, 2014.

For more information, go to the South Carolina AHEC webpage at [http://www.scahec.net/incentivegrant.html](#).

South Carolina Rural Dentist Program

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) is pleased to announce that it is currently accepting applications for the South Carolina Rural Dentist Program. The South Carolina Rural Dentist Program was implemented in July 2005 to assist dentists who serve in South Carolina’s Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) or serve as full-time faculty at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine in repaying educational loans. The expectation is that during their commitment period, these dentists will establish viable community practices or academic careers at the College of Dental Medicine, become involved in their respective communities and remain after the funding period is over. Priority for this program is given to those demonstrating need and expressing intent to remain in an underserved area or in an area of critical need at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. To date, 37 rural dentists and 13 faculty members at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine have been funded.

For more information on the South Carolina Rural Dentist Program, please visit the South Carolina AHEC webpage at [http://www.scahec.net/professionals.html](#). The deadline for applications for this funding cycle is February 15, 2014.

AHEC Happenings: Upstate AHEC ‘Adopts’ Less Fortunate Senior Citizens



During the holidays, Upstate AHEC staff chose to provide support to less fortunate senior citizens in our region. Rather than exchange gifts among each other, the Upstate AHEC staff ‘adopted’ senior citizens through the Holiday Sponsor program at Right at Home of Upstate South Carolina. Right at Home’s in-home care provides services built around the aging client’s specific needs. The AHEC staff ‘adopted’ ten senior citizens: Mattie, Delores, Teresa, Connie, Tracie, Steve, Sam, Charles, Richard, and James.

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